

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES (B.A.)

2019-2020 Tip Sheet for First Year Students

The B.A. degree is a flexible one that provides a solid background in environmental issues from a scientific, cultural, historical, and societal perspective while allowing the opportunity to pursue a wide array of elective courses in environmental studies and affiliated programs to suit the interests of the major. The B.A. “studies” degree offers excellent preparation for graduate work in environmental management and policy as well as professional fields of planning, law, policy, teaching, geography, etc.

Recommendations for first year students:

1. **Take ES 117 in the fall or spring.** (*a 4 or 5 on the AP Environmental Science exam will exempt you from this requirement*)
2. **Consider taking another ES course from the list of ES and affiliates below**
3. **In your first semester, meet with an ES faculty member to chat about your interests.** (*ES faculty: Renee Godard (chair), Morgan Wilson, Liz Gleim, Pablo Hernandez, Brian Gentry*)

ES COURSES OFFERED 2019-2020

Fall Core Courses

ES 117: Intro to Env't Science
Econ 157: Microeconomics
ES 207/207L: Ecology + lab
ES 357/357L: Conservation Biology
ES 470: Senior Seminar in Env't Studies

Other Fall ES courses

ES 311: Environmental History of Ancient Mediterranean
ES 364/364L: Biogeochemistry

Other Fall Affiliated courses

Biol 236/236L: Cell and Molecular Biology
Chem 221/221L: Organic Chemistry I
Comm 225: Public Speaking
Comm 380: Global Comm and Media
Intl 120: Intro to International Studies
Intl 303: Geopolitics
Psy 208: Research Statistics
Rel 126: Intro Religion from Global context
Stat 251: Statistical Methods I

Spring 2018 - Core Course

ES 117: Intro to Env't Science
Econ 157: Microeconomics
ES 250: Environmental Policy of US
(*equivalent to ES 234*)

Other Spring ES

ES 210: World Geography
ES 241: Geology and Earth History
ES 250: One Health (2 cred)
ES 250: Sustainable Architecture
ES 305: Cultural Geography & Landscape
ES 337/337L: Ornithology

Other Affiliated courses

Biol 313/313L: Microbiology
Biol 323/323L: Animal Behavior
Bus 224: Ethical Leadership
Chem 214: Analytical Chemistry
Chem 222: Organic Chemistry II
Comm 238: Argumentation and Advocacy
Econ 265: International Trade
Intl 210: World Geography
Phil 181: Cont. Moral Issues
Psy 208: Research Statistics
Stat 234: Data Wrangling with R (2 cr)

REQUIREMENTS FOR the B.A. IN ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES:

12 courses (minimum of 46 credits) and Experiential Component

CORE COURSES (7):

- ES 117: Environmental Science (4)
- Econ 157: Microeconomics (4)
- ES 207: Ecology (4) + Laboratory (2)
- ES 234: Environmental Politics and Policy (4) **or** SFS course: Policy and Socioeconomic Values
- ES 357: Conservation Biology (4) **or** SFS Principles of Resource Management
- ES 470: Senior Seminar in Environmental Studies (4)

FIVE ADDITIONAL COURSES

- 1 course must be at 300 level and 3 courses must be at 200 level or higher
- 2 of these courses must be ES, the other 3 can come from ES or affiliated courses listed below

EXPERIENTIAL COMPONENT

- Complete an experiential component: a related internship, service project, or completion of Wilderness Leadership Experience or Short Term Trip: Caribbean Ecology and Culture.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: *What kind of internships have ES majors pursued?*

Here are a sampling of internships our students have obtained – *Chesapeake Bay Foundation, VA; Canaveral National Seashore, FL; Mountain Castle Soil and Water Division, Roanoke VA; Blue Ridge Land Conservancy, Roanoke, VA; Roanoke Clean Valley Council, Roanoke, VA; The Nature Conservancy, Charlottesville, VA; VMI Laboratories, Lexington, VA; Sierra Club - Cumberland Chapter, KY; Kentucky Division of Compliance Assistance, KY; George Washington National Forest Service, Roanoke, VA ; Southern Waterview Development, FL; National Zoo, Washington, D.C.* **We encourage you to pursue internship opportunities early and frequently during your academic career!**

Q: *Can I go abroad and still major in Environmental Studies?* We have several opportunities for ES majors to pursue their degree and student abroad – see below:

- Affiliate program with the School for Field Studies (SFS): research-based experience in ecology, environmental issues, and sustainable development in environmentally sensitive areas around the world – **4 courses transfer directly to ES major**. Field station locations include: Costa Rica (sustainable development studies), Kenya (wildlife ecology and management studies), Turks and Caicos (marine resources studies), Panama (tropical island biodiversity and conservation studies), Australia (tropical rainforest management studies), Peru (biodiversity and development in the Amazon), and Cambodia (the living Mekong). Contact Renee Godard or www.fieldstudies.org/ for more information.
- Affiliate program with Limerick University: traditional university setting often providing 1-2 ES related courses for our majors
- Caribbean Ecology J Term Research course: research based J-term travel course to Caribbean.

Q: *I think I only want to MINOR in Environmental Studies. What should I do?*

You will need to take ES 117, ES 207/207L, ES 234 and 3 additional ES or affiliated courses.